



NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Supporting Summer Success

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Ahhh...Summer

Freedom from Routine

- Sleep late, stay up late, no rush

Unstructured Time

- Hangout with friends, discover the neighborhood

Less Supervision

- Adults not directing how activities have to be played, more time home alone

What Research Says About Summer Learning Loss?

What is it?

- First described and studied in 1906, more than a century ago
- The well-documented phenomenon in which students forget much of what they've learned over the summer
- All students experience some
- It is too often accepted as the status quo, but it's a problem we can solve
- Raising awareness is the first step!

When does it occur?

- Learning loss occurs anytime students are not in school
 - Summer months
 - Winter holidays
 - Extended weekends

- Summer regression is also referred to as
 - Summer slide
 - Brain drain
 - Summer loss
 - Summer setback

Who is at risk?

- All students

- Research shows special education students experience a more significant skill loss than their typically developing peers

- Research also indicates ties between summer learning loss and socio economic status

What are the impacts?

- Subjects most affected are those that rely on skills that require:
 - Constant repetition
 - Multiple opportunities for practice and feedback
 - Goals of automaticity
 - Reading, writing, math, vocabulary
- A conservative estimate of lost instructional time is approximately two months or roughly 22 percent of the school year or 2-3 years over a K-12 career.
- It's common for teachers to spend at least a month re-teaching material that students have forgotten over the summer.

What about next year?

- Many students start school behind and struggle to catch up
- Without intervention, students who start school behind will likely stay behind
- Students who cannot read at grade level by fourth grade will likely stay behind and continue to struggle throughout their K-12 career

What Can be Done to Support Summer Success?

Most Common Approaches

- Summer School
- Summer reading programs
- Reading books at home
- Camps: day camps and sleep-away camps
- Community-based organizations' summer experiences
- Incentive programs

Regular practice and application of skills in a variety of environments will help students maintain their learned skills and be prepared for next year

Reading Specific Activities

Read. EVERYWHERE! stories, signs, cereal boxes, in the store, menu, etc.

Stories that Connect: Read books about summer activities before and/or after going to a special place (lake, zoo, amusement park, vacation). The connections and pathways between the story and real life enhance learning.

Virtual reading camp: sign up for online reading camps, such as Scholastic's "Summer Challenge" which is an online camp engaging students in competitive reading over the summer.

Summer library program: 94% of libraries offer study space for students and 95% offer summer reading programs

Writing Specific Activities

Journal: take time to write about activities experienced throughout the day. Journaling can be a single to a few words with a student created picture to reflect on an experience.

Comic Strip: Discuss a funny situation that happened and create a comic strip about it.

Email and Letters: Have students email and write letters to family and friends telling them about fun activities to keep in touch while keeping up with their writing practice.

White Board Fun! Have students write the daily schedule, grocery list, errands, chores, or weekly activities. Fun, meaningful, and creative writing enhances learning.

Math Specific Activities

Grocery Store/Menu Math: Have students be in charge of calculating cost of items, comparing least and most expensive.

Board Games: Many board games incorporate fun family time, math skills, and strategic thinking.

Sports: Attend local baseball games, watch volleyball, and play softball. While watching, make predictions, discuss scores, and team strategies.

Have a garage sale: Students can price the items, convert dollars to change, sell products and count money.

Go Bowling! Track scores, count pins, calculate strikes, spares, etc. Compare the answer with the computer generated scores.

Summer Math Challenge: Online program combating summer math learning loss

Science and Social Studies Activities

Go to the Zoo: See, touch, learn about, and explore a variety of animals and their habitats.

Visit a museum: Learn about history, art, and science.

Track daily temperatures: Students can draw pictures of the daily weather, compare temperatures on a graph, make predictions for future, notice weather patterns.

Take advantage of Nature! Start a nature study notebook containing pictures and explanations about exciting things seen in the environment, go on hikes, take nature walks, make a birdbath, start a rock collection, etc.

Technology Specific Activities

Play educational games device: There are a wealth of great educational web sites and apps.

Let technology motivate: students often have an intrinsic motivation to use technology

Explore audio and digital books

Summer Programming

Characteristics of Effective Summer Learning Programs

Program Approach

1. Intentional focus on accelerating learning
2. Firm commitment to youth development
3. Proactive approach to summer learning

Instructional techniques are most effective when academic learning is woven into enrichment activities

Characteristics of Effective Summer Learning Programs (continued)

Program Infrastructure

4. Strong, empowering leadership
5. Advanced, collaborative planning
6. Extensive opportunities for staff development
7. Strategic partnerships
8. Rigorous approach to evaluation and commitment to program improvement
9. Clear focus on sustainability and cost-effectiveness

Importance of Reading

- Reading 3-4 books over the summer has proven to produce the same summer gains as attending a summer program
- Certain supports MUST exist:
 - Access to books
 - Books that match readers' ability levels and interests
 - Comprehension, as monitored and guided by an adult, teacher or parent

Read, Read, Read

Read to students: This will stimulate their "reading juices".

Read with students: This will allow them to read more difficult books.

Discuss reading with students: This raises their thinking and gets them to ask questions.

Questions?

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